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NSC BRIEFING

29 December 1960

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REVIEWER: CONGO

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- I. Rival regimes in Leopoldville and Stanleyville continue to spar.
 - A. Mobutu hampered by logistical problems operating against distant Orientale province.
 - B. Gizenga threatened by critical shortage food and gasoline in Stanleyville.
 - II. Gizenga has broken Mobutu's "economic blockade," however, by moving forces into Kivu Province which should relieve pressure on food supply Stanleyville.
 - A. Next move up to Mobutu who will probably now have to use stronger measures.
 - B. Mobutu likely to ignore Hammarskjold's threat to withdraw UN forces if Mobutu moves against Stanleyville in view of UN inability to forestall Gizenga forays into Kivu.
 - C. Extent of dissident control in Kivu unclear, but apparently most of the 3,000 Congolese army troops there responsive to Gizenga.
 - III. African states still hesitant concerning extent to which they should aid dissidents. UAR, however, has been giving some aid and considering expansion of this aid to Lumumba supporters.
 - A. Gizenga may go to meeting African states in Rabat scheduled to convene 3 January to plead cause in person. This meeting to concern itself largely with Congo problem.
 - B. While some African states are likely to offer some form of material aid, pro-Gizenga sentiment not unanimous.

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C. Sudan continues to bar UAR overflights to Stanleyville and no nation has formally recognized Gizenga regime as legal Congo government.

1. Sudanese PM Abboud, however, stated that he might not be able to control or observe some flights over this country.

IV. Kasavubu has sent a message to UN Sec Gen Hammarskjold and also has stated to the Liberian Ambassador in Leopoldville that he is ready to receive the UN Conciliation Commission. He suggested 3 January as a date on which they might begin meetings.

A. This would seem to be a step in right direction, although it is still unclear how this UN Commission will go about resolving the bitter Congo disputes and splits.

B. There is also an unresolved problem on the UN Commission, since Kasavubu told Hammarskjold that he did not wish to have Ghana, Guinea, Mali, India or Morocco serve on the Commission.

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